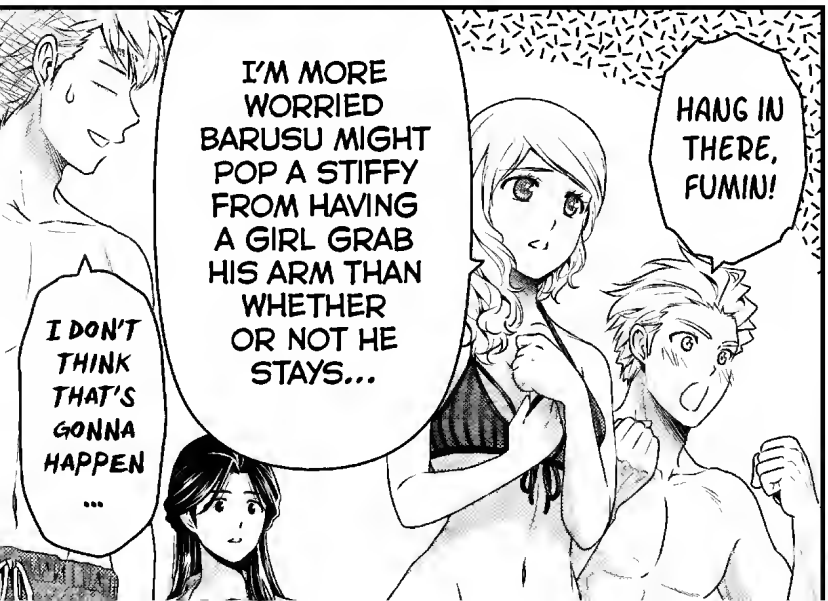
KODANSHA COMICS

CHAPTER 178

KEI SASUGA

DOME X GIRL

IT'S NOT LIKE THIS IS THE LAST TIME WE'LL EVER SEE THEM!
WE DON'T GET THAT MANY CHANCES TO SEE EVERYONE, YOU KNOW!
IT MAKES A HUGE DIFFERENCE! THIS IS A LITERATURE CLUB GATH-ERING!
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL? IT'S NOT LIKE IT MAKES ANY DIFFER-ENCE IF I LEAVE!


I DON'T THINK THAT'S GONNA HAPPEN ...
I'M MORE WORRIED BARUSU MIGHT POP A STIFFY FROM HAVING A GIRL GRAB HIS ARM THAN WHETHER OR NOT HE STAYS...
HANG IN THERE, FUMIN!

KEI SASUGA

CHAPTER 178: JUST FRIENDS

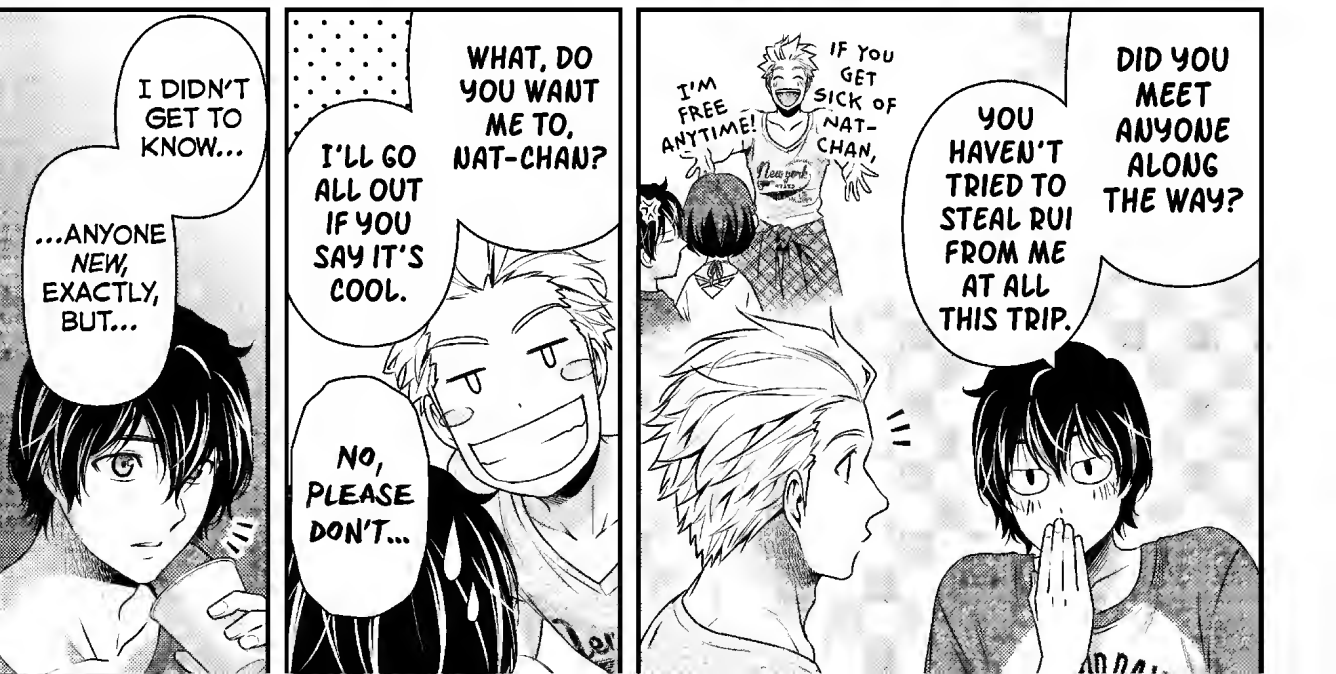
MRRRR
SHH
DA
SH
GASP
WHY AM I THE BAD GUY...?
WAY TO GO, BARUSU, YOU BIG JERK!
IS SHE MAD...?
HUH?!
HRR
GRR
HEY! WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
IS IT ALL RIGHT IF SUBARU-KUN STAYS, TOO?
OH, REALLY? NO PROBLEM, THEN? THANK YOU SO MUCH!
FFFK
OH, IS THIS SHIBASAKI-KUN'S OLDER SISTER? IT'S ME, KABASAWA.
I'M CALLING BECAUSE IT LOOKS LIKE THE LITERATURE CLUB WILL BE SPENDING THE NIGHT AT THE BEACH...

THERE.
NOW YOU DON'T HAVE ANY EXCUSE.
...
ハ｜ HUFF
ぜ｜ WHEEZE
ハ｜ HUFF
...
GET 'EM WHILE THEY'RE HOT, GUYS.
OKAY!

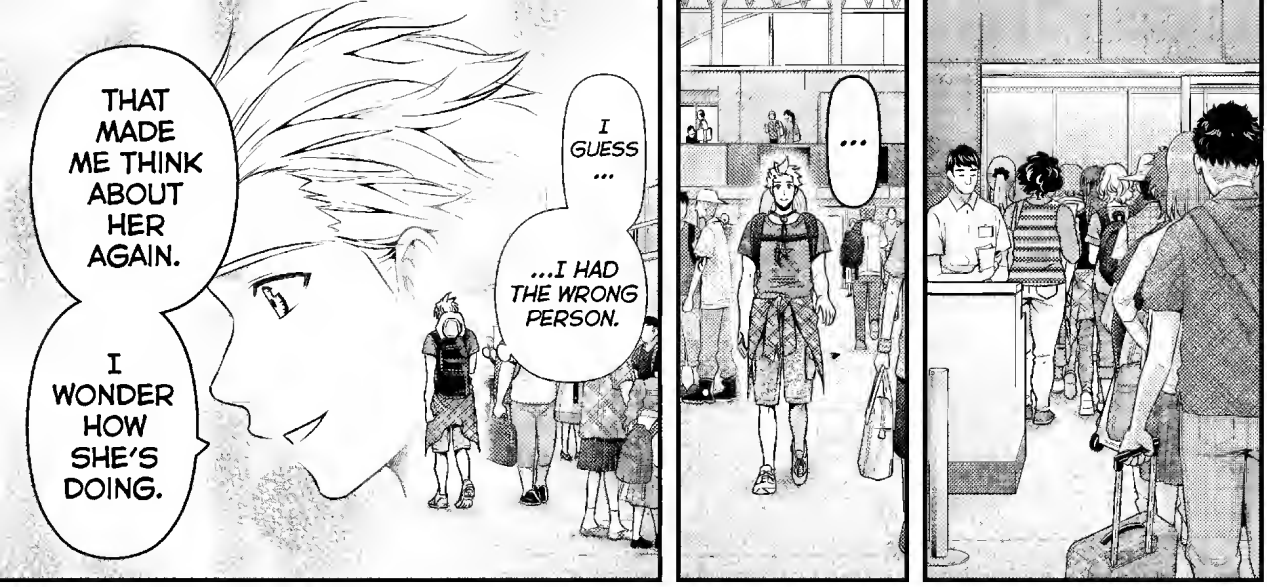
I WAS ON THE HUNT ALL DAY, BUT I COULDN'T BAG A SINGLE ONE...
ON THE HUNT FOR WHAT?
CHICKS.
PEOPLE CALL THAT BEACH "LOVERS' COAST." I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE EASY TO HOOK UP THERE, BUT...
RE-ALLY? HUH!
I DON'T THINK THE NAME'S ABOUT PICKING UP GIRLS.
THERE'S A SMALL SHRINE IN THE MOUNTAINS NEARBY THAT'S GREAT FOR MATCH-MAKING.
THEY SAY COUPLES WHO PRAY THERE TOGETHER WILL LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER.
I GUESS ITS REPUTATION SPREAD TO THE BEACH SINCE IT'S RIGHT NEXT DOOR.
IS THAT RIGHT?
HEY, I'VE GOT AN IDEA. WHY DON'T WE ALL TAKE A TRIP TO THAT SHRINE?
WE CAN PAIR UP AND TREAT IT LIKE A DARE OR SOMETHING.
...I THINK YOU SHOULD QUIT WHILE YOU'RE AHEAD.
HUH?! AW, C'MON. IT'LL HELP US GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER!
REMEMBER THAT TIME WE ALL WENT TO THE HAUNTED HOUSE AT THE AMUSE-MENT PARK AND YOU GOT SO SCARED YOU ALMOST CRIED?
GOOD LUCK SHOWING OFF TO ANYONE.
DON'T SPILL THE BEANS!
あ
あ
AH
WA

I DUNNO IF I'D CALL 'EM FUNNY OR JUST WEIRD...
I'M GLAD. IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE HAVING FUN AT COLLEGE.
YOUR UPPER-CLASSMEN ARE FUNNY, NAT-CHAN.
I JUST CAN'T DEAL WITH THE GUYS WHO JUMP OUT AT YOU!
WOULD YOU RATHER EMBARRASS YOURSELF?
HA, HA, HA. JUST LIKE ME.

IT WAS FUN TO SEE SO MANY PLACES.
MAYBE. I WAS CON-STANTLY ON THE MOVE.
DID YOU BULK UP EVEN MORE?
LOOKS LIKE YOU HAD A GOOD TRIP, TOO, AL.

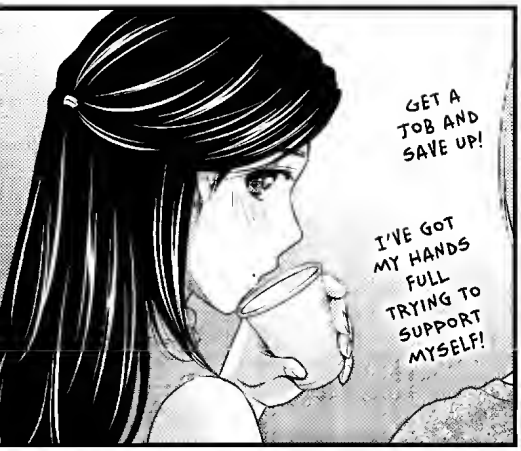

I DIDN'T GET TO KNOW...
...ANYONE NEW, EXACTLY, BUT...
WHAT, DO YOU WANT ME TO, NAT-CHAN?
I'LL GO ALL OUT IF YOU SAY IT'S COOL.
NO, PLEASE DON'T...
I'M FREE ANYTIME!
IF YOU GET SICK OF NAT-CHAN,
DID YOU MEET ANYONE ALONG THE WAY?
YOU HAVEN'T TRIED TO STEAL RUI FROM ME AT ALL THIS TRIP.

WHEN I CAME BACK TO JAPAN,
I SAW SOME-ONE WHO LOOKED LIKE LILY AT THE AIRPORT.
HUH?! YOU MEAN YOUR CHILD-HOOD FRIEND FROM THE STATES?
THE ONE WHO LOOKS KINDA LIKE RUI?
CHILD VERSION
UH-HUH. THE SAME LILY WHO DUMPED ME OVER MY DRUNKEN SLIP-UP.
IT WAS RIGHT AFTER I'D GOTTEN OFF THE PLANE...
...AND SAW THE NEWS ABOUT YOUR BOOK...
HUH ...?
LILY ?!
NO WAY!
WHAT'S SHE DOING IN JAPAN?!
LILY!


THAT MADE ME THINK ABOUT HER AGAIN.
I WONDER HOW SHE'S DOING.
I GUESS...
...I HAD THE WRONG PERSON.
...

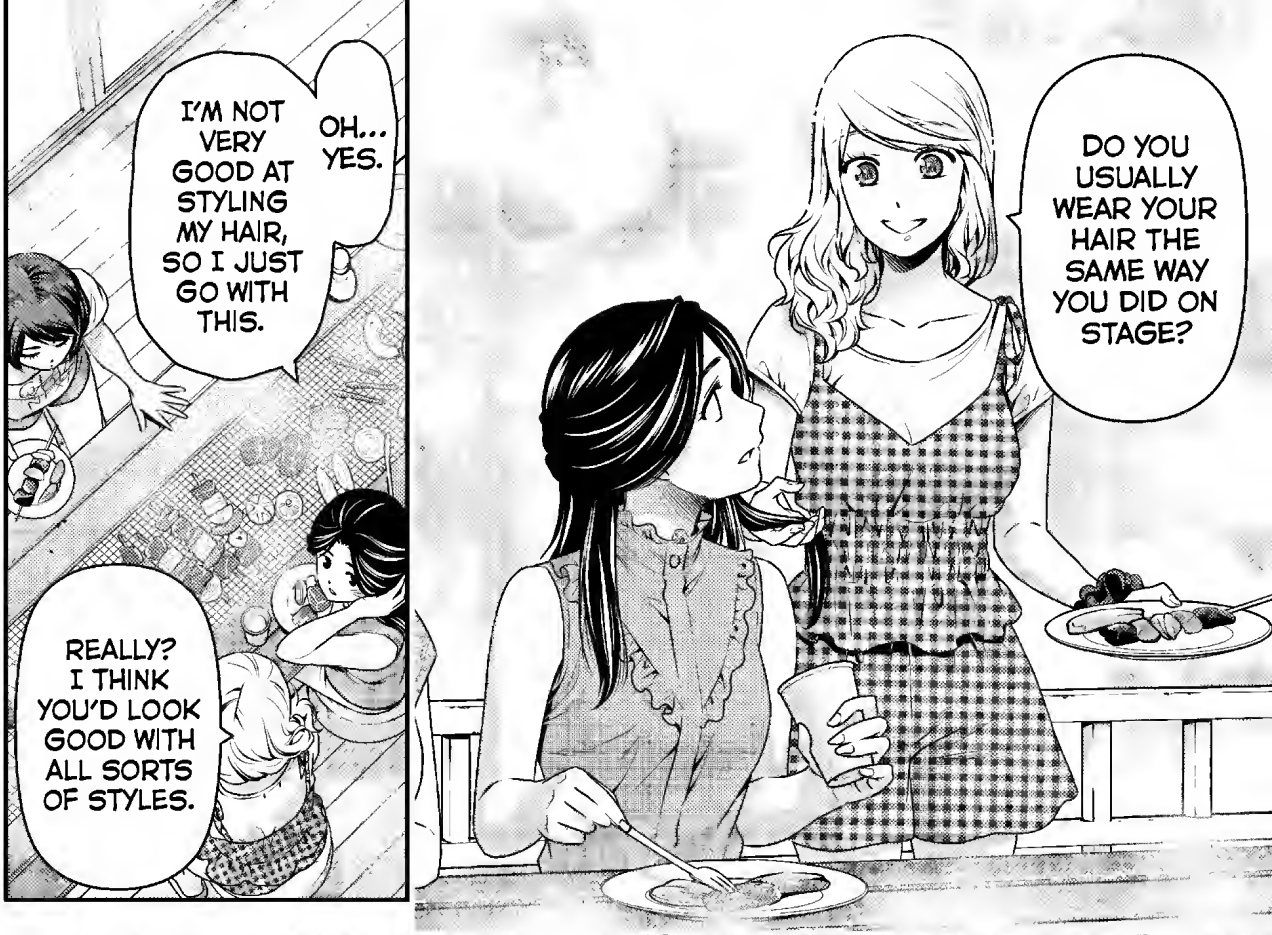
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID YOU HAVE TO SAY WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND IF YOU WANT SOMEONE TO KNOW HOW YOU FEEL!
YOU NEVER KNOW! IT'S BEEN YEARS, RIGHT?!

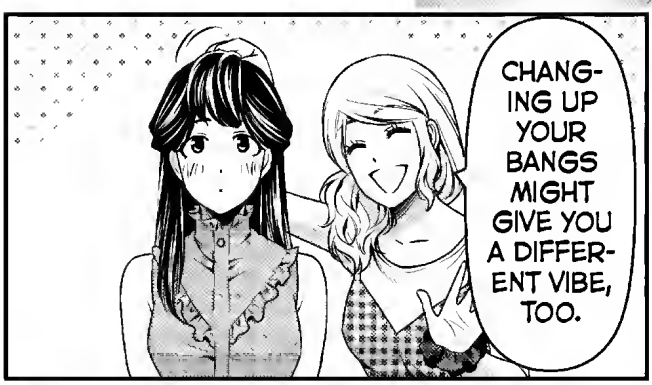
IT'S FINE. SHE PROBABLY DOESN'T WANNA SEE ME, ANYWAY.
EASY FOR YOU TO SAY.
WHY DON'T YOU GO SEE HER, THEN? Y'KNOW, TO CATCH UP.

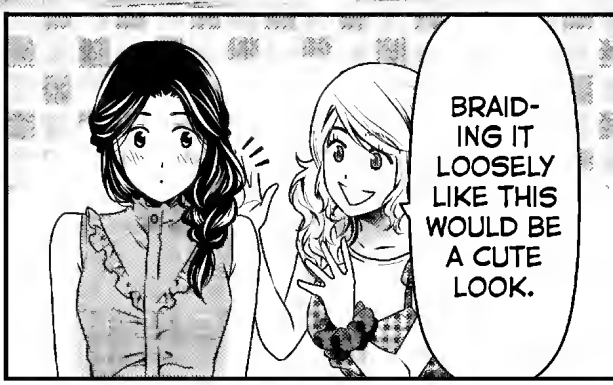

GET A JOB AND SAVE UP!
I'VE GOT MY HANDS FULL TRYING TO SUPPORT MYSELF!

SWISH
YOU HAVE BEAU-TIFUL HAIR.

WHAAA? NO WAY! I'D BE WAY TOO NERVOUS!
COME WITH ME, NAT-CHAN!
SCREW THAT!
I DON'T HAVE THAT KIND OF MONEY!


DO YOU USUALLY WEAR YOUR HAIR THE SAME WAY YOU DID ON STAGE?
OH... YES.
I'M NOT VERY GOOD AT STYLING MY HAIR, SO I JUST GO WITH THIS.
REALLY? I THINK YOU'D LOOK GOOD WITH ALL SORTS OF STYLES.


CHANGING UP YOUR BANGS MIGHT GIVE YOU A DIFFERENT VIBE, TOO.


BRAIDING IT LOOSELY LIKE THIS WOULD BE A CUTE LOOK.

PLUS, I THINK THIS HAIRSTYLE SUITS HER THE BEST.
I THINK SHE LOOKS *PLENTY* CUTE THE WAY SHE IS.

OR YOU COULD CURL IT AND...
SNATCH

GH
GH
GH
GH
GH
HNGH
BUT SHE HAS SO MUCH LENGTH TO WORK WITH.
I THINK IT'D BE NICE TO TRY OUT ALL SORTS OF STYLES.
OHH?
YOU THINK SO?
M-
MAY I ASK HOW...
...YOU AND FUJII-KUN MET?
E-
EX-CUSE ME...
ADDLE ADDLE
しどろもどろ
UHH...
WE MET AFTER I TRANS-FERRED TO HIS HIGH SCHOOL...
...IN THE LITERATURE CLUB.
WHAT DREW YOU TO HIM?
ER...
UM...
HOW WE MET...?
WHAT DREW ME... UM...
OH?
ARE YOU INTERESTED IN NATSUO-KUN?
GLAD YOU

I'VE JUST NEVER DATED ANYONE BEFORE.
SO, I'M JUST CURIOUS ...
REALLY? THAT'S A SHOCK.

HUH ?!
NO, I...
THAT'S NOT HOW IT IS!

AHA... SO, NATSUO-KUN CAUGHT YOUR EYE AND...
I-I'M TELLING YOU, THAT'S NOT HOW IT IS...!

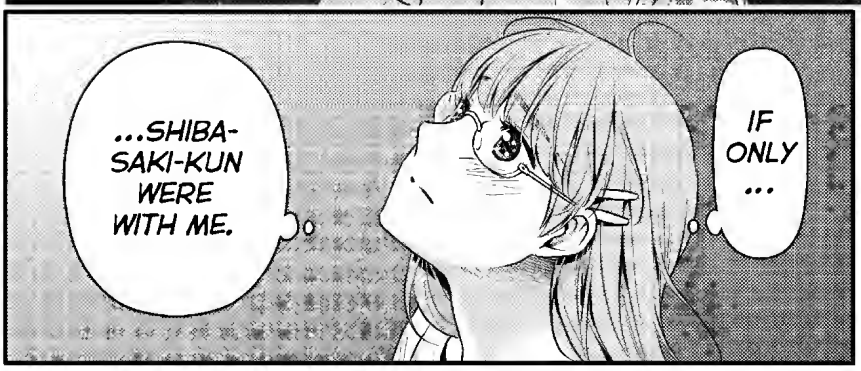
HERE. THIS MEAT'S DONE.
I'D ONLY SEEN PEOPLE HAVE BARBEQUES LIKE THIS ON TV BEFORE.
THANKS.
YEAH.
IT'S PRETTY FUN, HUH?
DON'T YOU THINK CUTTING LOOSE WITH EVERY-ONE...
...WILL BE GOOD FOR YOUR WRITING, TOO?

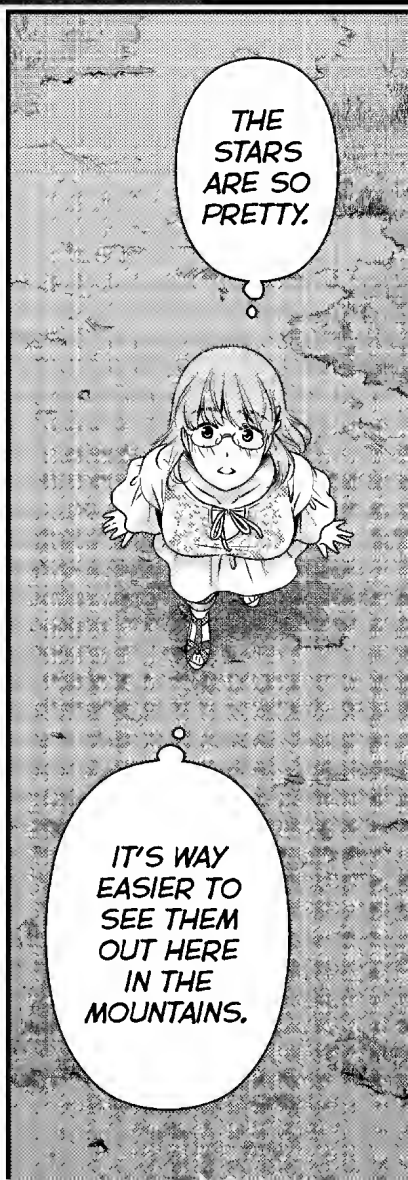
FUJII-KUN'S TOLD ME ALL ABOUT YOU!
ARE YOU THE CURRENT LIT CLUB PREZ?
MY FAMILY DOESN'T REALLY GO ON TRIPS LIKE THIS.
WHO KNOWS?
THEN MAYBE SOME-TIME, WE CAN–
STRIKE EIGHT
8
コト
TNK
I'M ACTUALLY THINKING OF SUBMITTING SOME WORK SOON, TOO.
I HEAR YOU ALREADY HAVE AN EDITOR!
HE HASN'T! HE JUST SAID YOU'RE A PROMISING WRITER WHO HATES TO LOSE.
YES, I AM ...
WHAT SORT OF TRASH HAS FUJII-SEMPAI BEEN TALKING ABOUT ME?
WHAT SORT OF GENRES DO YOU LIKE TO WRITE?
A LITTLE BIT OF EVERYTHING, I GUESS.
...
S-SERI-OUSLY?
WATCH YOUR BACK. SHE'LL PROBABLY BECOME ONE OF OUR BIGGEST RIVALS.
OH, PLEASE. YOU GIVE ME TOO MUCH CREDIT.
REAL-LY?
TO SHIN-KOSHA?
I HAVEN'T DECIDED WHERE YET.
SHIBASAKI! SHE'S OUR CLUB'S GENIUS PLAYWRIGHT.

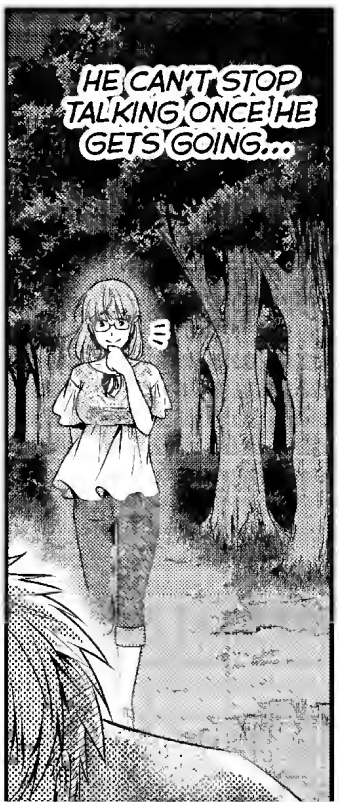
IT'S NICE AND COOL OUT.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE HUNG OUT IN SUCH A BIG GROUP, HUH?
BRING-ING BACK MEMORIES OF HIGH SCHOOL?
YEAH.
MUST BE 'CAUSE OCEAN'S CLOSE.
GLAD YOU NEXT
THE BREEZE FEELS GREAT.
A GOOD DAY
05-13
VANCOUVER
ENJOY!!
SKATEBOADIN
DESIGN FOR EVERYDAY
THE GIRL WHO PLAYED THE LEAD... SERIZAWA-SAN, WAS IT?
SHE KEPT ASKING ME ABOUT HOW WE MET AND STUFF.
HUH? WHAT FOR?
MAYBE SHE HAS A THING FOR YOU...
...AND WAS TRYING TO PICK MY BRAIN?
YEAH, RIGHT!
SHE HATED MY GUTS WHEN WE FIRST MET, REMEMBER?

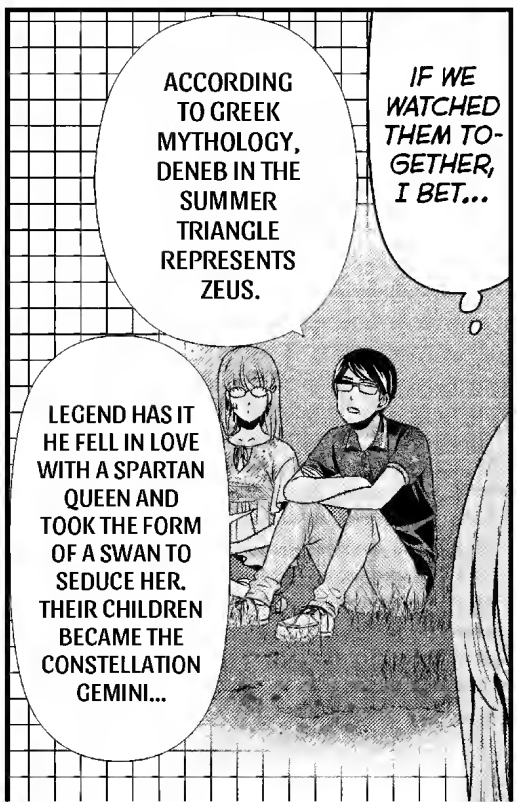
IS IT ABOUT YOUR CO-WORKER?
WHAT'S UP?
YOU MAKE IT SOUND LIKE THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE BUGGING YOU.
WELL, WHAT-EVER.
THAT'S NOT REALLY IMPORTANT RIGHT NOW.
GLAD YOU NEXT
IT'S ABOUT HINA-NEE.
HUH ...?
SHE'S HIDING SOME-THING.
SHE SEEMED LIKE SHE FELT BETTER AFTER SHE TURNED DOWN THE ARRANGED MARRIAGE DEAL, BUT...
I DUNNO. I FEEL LIKE SOMETHING'S UP.
HINA-NEE SAYS IT'S NOTHING,
BUT YOU KNOW HOW SHE DOESN'T LIKE TO WORRY PEOPLE, SO...
VANCOUVER

HINA-NEE'S AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR LIVES.
WE SHOULD BE THERE FOR HER IN ANY WAY WE CAN.
...I'M WORRIED SHE'S BOTTLING SOMETHING UP AGAIN.
YEAH.
OKAY.
キュ
GR
IP
ゆう...
IF SHE STARTS ACTING STRANGE,
CALL ME, OKAY?
THE MOON'S FULL TO-NIGHT.
DOESN'T IT LOOK BEAUTIFUL?
LOOK ...


...SHIBA-SAKI-KUN WERE WITH ME.
IF ONLY ...


THE STARS ARE SO PRETTY.
IT'S WAY EASIER TO SEE THEM OUT HERE IN THE MOUNTAINS.


HE CAN'T STOP TALKING ONCE HE GETS GOING...


ACCORDING TO GREEK MYTHOLOGY, DENEB IN THE SUMMER TRIANGLE REPRESENTS ZEUS.
IF WE WATCHED THEM TOGETHER, I BET...
LEGEND HAS IT HE FELL IN LOVE WITH A SPARTAN QUEEN AND TOOK THE FORM OF A SWAN TO SEDUCE HER. THEIR CHILDREN BECAME THE CONSTELLATION GEMINI...

HM?
IS OSAKA-KUN STARGAZING, TOO?
I CAN'T BLAME. THEY'RE BEAUTIFUL.
OSAKA–
AH!
AHH!
MM.
...!
AH!
RIKKUN ...
AH...
SEMPAI...
MOMO-SEMPAI!
I...
I'M GONNA ...
MMAH!
RIKKUN ...
AAAAH!
SORRY TO INTERRUPT!
THAT STARTLED ME...
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
WELL, DUH. THEY ARE GOING OUT, AFTER ALL.
IF...
...SHIBASAKI-KUN AND I STARTED GOING OUT, THEN...
...
AAH! I CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE THAT!
WHIP
WHIP
WHIP
FOR NOW,
I JUST WANT TO BE CLOSE TO HIM...
I WONDER WHO FUMIN LIKES.

THINK IT'S SOME-ONE WE KNOW?
ANY THOUGHTS, SHIBASAKI-KUN?
WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME?
AREN'T YOU WORRIED TO HEAR SHE HAS A CRUSH ON SOME-ONE?
HUH?
CAN YOU PLEASE STOP TEASING ME?
I'M NOT INTER-ESTED.
SHE'S NOT REALLY DATING MATERIAL TO ME.
WE'VE JUST ALWAYS BEEN CLASSMATES. THAT'S ALL.
I DON'T SEE HER AS ANYTHING MORE THAN A FRIEND.
KRYCH
I'M SURE ...
...SHE FEELS THE SAME WAY ABOUT ME.